

Children's Justice Act Committee (CJAC)
Staffed by the Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention
September 15, 2016
Howard County Library, Miller Branch
9421 Frederick Rd
Ellicott City, MD 21042

1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

Members in Attendance:

Arnold Eby, Chair, Maryland Foster Parent Resource Center
Mark Acosta, The Coordinating Center
Kerry Hannan, Baltimore Child Abuse Center
Shalita O'Neale, Fostering Change Network (phone)
Diane Shaffer, Talbot County Department of Social Services (phone)
Joan Stine, Child Advocate (volunteer)
Krista Trahan, Baltimore County Department of Social Services

Staff:

Jessica Wheeler, Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention

I. Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 1:10 p.m. Members introduced themselves.

II. Approval of Minutes

There was not a quorum at the start of the meeting; therefore, minutes were not approved. Minutes from May and September will be tabled until the next meeting.

III. Child First Program Evaluation/Analysis

Members reviewed the last program evaluation that was conducted by GOCCP several years ago. To ensure the program is continuing to be implemented effectively, members will conduct another program evaluation. This will consist of disseminating an in-person survey at each of the trainings this year. Trainees will be asked to provide their contact information so that members can follow-up with them after the training. Additionally, members will survey past trainees through the Children's Advocacy Centers to determine if the appropriate people are receiving training and if any improvements can be made.

IV. CJAC Funding Priorities in FY 18

Members reviewed the funding priorities in the FY 17 Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) and discussed potential changes based on the findings in the 2015 assessment. Ms. Wheeler reminded everyone that the Children's Justice Act program is geared towards improving the front-end of the child welfare system and emphasizes innovation. With this in mind, members discussed the following:

- For purpose area B, which involves improving the judicial response to child abuse and neglect cases, members will research current training opportunities available to judges to develop funding priorities.
- Purpose area C will be eliminated as we've not received applications for this and the need did not arise on the 2015 assessment survey.
- For Purpose Area D, members highlighted the need for additional trauma-informed providers. One suggestion was that the Committee could fund an organization to develop a video for parents on trauma and its effect on the brain as well as the importance of treatment. Ms. Stine will further investigate to ensure this doesn't already exist online (i.e. YouTube).
- For Purpose area E, members discussed making this a priority for funding and moving it to the top of the list in the NOFA. Members also discussed aligning the funding priority with the accreditation needs to assist Children's Advocacy Center's with achieving accreditation. Members also discussed the need to increase support Crime Scene Technicians to ensure timely evidence analysis, specifically with child pornography cases.

V. State Council on Child Abuse and Neglect (SCCAN)

Ms. Stine updated members on current SCCAN initiatives. The Council is working with the Department of Human Resources and the Department of Health & Mental Hygiene on data needs to child fatality review investigations. The Council is also working to develop comprehensive child sexual abuse legislation with Delegate Eric Luedtke.

VI. CJAC Updates

Ms. Wheeler reminded members that the Committee is still recruiting to fill the medical vacancy. This can be filled by a medical professional who has experience in child abuse cases.

Additionally, Keith Pion was recently appointed to the District Court of Baltimore County which leaves a State's Attorney vacancy. Members were asked to assist with these recruitment efforts and to target the Eastern and Western portions of the State to ensure geographic diversity.

Ms. Wheeler informed members that the next meeting conflicts with the Maryland Children's Alliance annual Mid-Atlantic Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect. Members agreed to cancel the November meeting.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Next Meeting:

January 19, 2017

1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Location: TBA